

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 14, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 137

Introduced by Assembly Member Buchanan

January 16, 2013

An act to amend Section 33540 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 137, as amended, Buchanan. Pupil instruction: civics.

Existing law requires the Instructional Quality Commission to review and revise, as necessary, the course requirements in the history-social science framework to ensure that minimum standards for courses in American government and civics include certain matters.

This bill would additionally require the commission, when revising the history-social science framework, *to ensure that the course requirements include teaching pupils how to interact, in a practical manner, with state and local governmental agencies and representatives to solve problems and to petition for changes in laws and procedures, and that these course requirements are included in all history and social science course and grade levels, as appropriate. The commission would also be required, whenever the framework is revised, to receive input from civics learning experts, for the purpose of integrating civics learning content, concepts, and skills with the standards established by the State Board of Education in core curriculum areas at each all appropriate grade level, levels, and to ensure that the civics learning content, concepts, and skills to be taught include certain matters consider*

how civics and learning instruction include the application of that content.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 33540 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:

3 33540. (a) The state board and the department shall request
4 that the commission review and revise, as necessary, the course
5 requirements in the history-social science framework developed
6 by the History-Social Science Curriculum Framework and Criteria
7 Committee of the state board to ensure that minimum standards
8 for courses in American government and civics include sufficient
9 attention to teaching pupils how to interact, in a practical manner,
10 with state and local governmental agencies and representatives to
11 solve problems and to petition for changes in laws and procedures
12 *and that these course requirements are also included in all history*
13 *and social science courses and grade levels, as appropriate.*

14 (b) ~~When~~ *Whenever* the history-social science framework is
15 revised as required by law, the commission shall do all of the
16 following:

17 (1) Receive input from ~~civic~~ *civics* learning experts, including
18 ~~civic~~ *civics* education program providers, associations of ~~civic~~
19 *civics* educators, and organizations dedicated to research on ~~civic~~
20 *civics* learning, for the purpose of integrating civics learning
21 content, concepts, and skills, at ~~each~~ *all appropriate* grade-level
22 *levels*, with the standards established by the state board in core
23 curriculum areas, as specified in Section 60605.

24 (2) ~~Ensure that the civics learning content, concepts, and skills~~
25 ~~to be taught include, but not be limited to, a basic understanding~~
26 ~~of the responsibilities and operation of the three branches of state~~
27 ~~and federal government, the importance of civic engagement, and~~
28 ~~the competencies needed to become effective and responsible~~
29 ~~residents and citizens in the 21st century. Consider how civics and~~
30 *history instruction, at all appropriate grade levels, includes, in*
31 *addition to the acquisition of content knowledge, the application*
32 *of that content to develop the competence and skills needed for*
33 *civic engagement.*

- 1 (3) Ensure that the following historical documents are
- 2 incorporated into the framework, as appropriate:
- 3 (A) The Declaration of Independence.
- 4 (B) The United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights.
- 5 (C) The Federalist Papers.
- 6 (D) The Emancipation Proclamation.
- 7 (E) The Gettysburg Address.
- 8 (F) George Washington's Farewell Address.

O